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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, change and decay encompass us, but You alone are changeless. Transform us by the renewing of our minds so that we may do Your work. Set our affection on eternal things to enable us to keep life's vicissitudes in their proper perspective. Give us the grace to find the time to reflect on Your wisdom and to discover Your plans.

Deliver our lawmakers from reflex conformity that aborts Your providence. Teach them to decide based on enduring principles that have stood the test of time. Renew their strength and give them vigor for life's emergencies and patience for the sometimes pedestrian monotony of daily labors. Reveal to us life areas that need Your touch. Illuminate all of our paths that we may walk in Your truth.

We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Today the first 30 minutes of morning business will be under the control of the minority, to be followed by 30 minutes under the control of this side of the aisle. Following this morning business period, the Senate will resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. The agreement reached last night allows for 30 additional minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the amendment of Senator DODD relating to the use of contractors and the custody of prisoners. Therefore, that vote can be expected shortly after 10:30 this morning.

Last night, Senators WARNER and LEVIN began working through a list of amendments and potential time agreements. Real progress was made. We will continue those discussions this morning to see which amendments both sides are prepared to vote on over the course of today. I hope we can have another productive day today and dispose of a number of these defense-related amendments prior to this evening's commitment.

Having said that, we are coming to the close of our third week of consider-

ation of this bill. We have had somewhere around 78 amendments offered, and we have disposed of 74 of those 78 amendments. I do appreciate the effort of my Democratic colleagues to facilitate moving toward closure on this bill. I know they, working with Chairman WARNER, are doing everything possible to narrow the list of remaining amendments. Both sides are working hard in that regard. They must continue to do that because we have a number of amendments still before us.

I have not ruled out filing cloture on this Defense bill if it becomes necessary, just from a management perspective. Obviously, it would be easier if we could see an end point to the amendments and know that we can complete this bill in a short timeframe. So, again, I encourage everyone to show restraint in the amendment process. Over the course of the day, the leadership on both sides will monitor the course of the bill.

We will likely revisit our situation on the bill later today and see if there is an end point that is near, something to which we can agree. If not, then cloture may be necessary to bring the bill to conclusion.

As a reminder, we will stack judicial nominations for votes throughout the day as well. As always, Members will be alerted as these votes are set.

VISIT TO IRAQ

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a few remarks on leader time that have to do with a discussion I began on Monday, and that is a followup on a trip about 12 days ago to Iraq. Again, we awoke today to increased terrorist activity in Iraq, with assassination and with sabotage of the oil supply lines there. I am saddened by the fact we see this terrorist activity, but I will have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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to say, as I said on Monday, this increased terrorist activity was anticipated. It is unfortunate we have to anticipate this increased terrorist activity, but it was very clear from our discussions with the Iraqi leadership, as well as with our civilians and military leadership in Iraq, that the terrorists' goal is to do everything possible to obstruct this rule of law, to obstruct this transfer of power, this transfer to sovereignty, this transfer from us being an occupying force to a mission.

It is not aimed just at the United States or just the coalition, or not just the new Iraqi interim government, but it is ultimately aimed—and this is from the Iraqi leadership perspective—at the Iraqi people.

The trip we took was with Senator BENNETT and Senator ENSIGN. We did have the opportunity just a few days after the appointment of the new Prime Minister to meet with the Prime Minister and have an extended discussion. The new Prime Minister is Dr. Ayad Allawi. He is a neurologist by training. He is someone who 3 weeks ago did not anticipate being the new Prime Minister.

As I said earlier in the week, what we found in our discussions with our leaders there, but even more importantly with the Iraqi leadership, is that in spite of this anticipated and actual occurrence of increased terrorist activity—really since late March, and it will likely extend until several weeks or maybe longer after passage of sovereignty on June 30—was a lot of optimism and a lot of confidence in this new interim government. That optimism was tempered with caution and hope, but it was also paired with a real determination to succeed. Backing down in response to these terrorists is simply not an option. That is what the Iraqis told us, what the new Iraqi interim government told us.

In addition, we were encouraged by the confidence that our civilian leaders, Ambassador Bremer and his colleagues, have in the new ministers, or 33 of these new ministers who have been appointed, as well as the new Iraqi leadership, the Prime Minister, the President, who was here last week, and with whom the Democratic leadership and our leadership had an opportunity to meet. It is this interim government to whom we will be passing sovereignty on June 30. So to hear this confidence come from people who are on the ground in Iraq, the Iraqi people, as well as our leaders, again, was very reassuring to us.

Dr. Allawi has been a longstanding opponent of Saddam Hussein's regime.

He is a man of great character, and he is widely respected throughout Iraq. He made it very clear to us that he shares our strategic goals—strategic goals which become a partnership in many ways.

In our meeting with the Prime Minister, he stated very clearly that we—he spoke in terms of “we,” the Iraqi people, the Iraqi government and the

United States and the coalition—must again and again come back to what we and they are fighting for; that is, freedom and human rights and the rule of law.

This fight on terrorism is one that he knows will be long. He says it is now an Iraqi responsibility, and if these acts of terrorism are acts of terrorism against the Iraqi people and their hope for prosperity and their livelihood—and he would be saying that again and again as Prime Minister, and indeed he has done that over the last several days. He said there are some in Iraq who want to destabilize Iraq, that tyranny works hand in hand with terrorism. He said Iraq has a responsibility at this point to confront this evil in the region and the world; that Iraq needs help but it is Iraq's responsibility.

He was quite clear. The forces aligned against us understand that if Iraq is successful and succeeds in establishing the rule of law, those forces are defeated, but if Iraq fails as a state, then terrorism may be uncontrollable there—but also throughout the Middle East. He told us that a healthy Iraq will lead to a healthy and more stable Middle East region.

He also made clear that Iraq cannot succeed without the assistance of the United States, the international community, and the coalition forces.

He outlined to us various processes that must be worked in parallel if Iraq is to succeed in rebuilding the Iraqi institutions that were hurt, destroyed, and run in the ground by Saddam Hussein. We talked about the court system, the police force, the transformation of Iraqi society, and ensuring that political reform leads to Iraqis choosing their own leaders.

He said these two goals are, No. 1, security, and No. 2, free elections.

As we all know, this interim government will serve for a period of about 6 months at which time free elections will take place in January of next year.

A fourth point he made is to pursue economic development.

Again, he came back to the terrorists—that the terrorist activity there and the fighting going on there discourages investment in Iraq.

A major goal of the Prime Minister is to build consensus so that in Iraq a national identity will prevail. Their goal, though, continues to be hindered by Saddam's policy of divide and rule that Saddam purposely used to fracture Iraq over decades.

The Prime Minister said we need to help the country in order to move forward, and to do that we need to put that Iraqi face on security, to put that Iraqi face on the reconstruction and other efforts to rehabilitate the country.

He assured us that under the new leadership of the interim Iraqi government which will occur that it will be the Iraqis who will be telling the Iraqi story.

The central part of the Prime Minister's policy will be to combat terrorism.

We very quickly moved into the importance of having a strong judicial system—a strong rule of law to support the system, as he described it.

He pointed out that Iraq must improve and expedite the training of police and security forces in the country. He thanked us for providing tremendous assistance as they rebuild that police and security force.

Iraq needs to take steps with the help of its neighbors to tighten border controls and stop terrorist trafficking.

The Prime Minister also intends to make clear to the Iraqi people that the terrorist attacks we are seeing on this infrastructure—such as the tragedy of the sabotage of the oilfields over the last 24 hours—are attacks on the Iraqi people. He says this again and again—that terrorism hurts the Iraqi people, and thus it is the responsibility of the Iraqi people to come back and confront the terrorists.

As we wrapped up our meeting with the Prime Minister, he very soberly said that as Iraq moves closer and closer to democracy, the more the terrorists will attack. Indeed, that is exactly what we are seeing over the last several weeks since late March, and again will likely continue for the next several weeks.

He wanted us to understand that he and most Iraqis deeply appreciate the sacrifices that the United States of America has made for his country, for freedom, for rule of law, and for that move toward democracy.

Thus, while the road ahead will be difficult, the Iraqi people we believe—having just been there—are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant with his vision and the will to work toward a free and democratic Iraq. The Iraqi people have a true leader in Prime Minister Allawi.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that our 30 minutes of morning business be divided as follows: Senator BENNETT for 15 minutes, Senator CHAMBLISS for 8 minutes, and Senator DEWINE for 7 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes with the first half under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half under the